

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 9, and 11-17 remain in the application. Claims 2, 6-8, and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, and 14 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the combination of Crowley (US 5,193,727), Allen et al. (US 6,549,299, "Allen"), and Kurahashi et al. (US 2003/0222396, "Kurahashi") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi fails to disclose or suggest:

wirelessly recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device without marking any media with the post processing instructions;

transporting the electronic information device on a spool holding the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs; and

wirelessly playing back the post processing instructions from the information device at the offline post processing system for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool,

as recited by claim 1.

Allen discloses a document printing and finishing system that prints document sheets and an instruction sheet. The instruction sheet includes computer readable finishing instructions. The post processing instructions are not wirelessly recorded on a transportable electronic information device but instead are printed on a sheet of media. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Allen related to transporting the electronic information device on a spool holding the printed media, and no disclosure related to wirelessly playing back the post processing instructions while the media is unwound from the spool.

Crowley is directed to a system that incorporates post production operations in the production of a continuous stream of images upon a web. A determination system 44 transfers post production commands to a post production device 48. However, the post processing instructions are not wirelessly recorded on a transportable electronic information device, and the

transportable electronic information device is not transported on a spool holding the printed media. Furthermore, the post processing instructions are not wirelessly played back from the information device at the offline post processing system for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool.

Kurahashi discloses a storage device 1202 attached to a stacker tray 1207 that stores post processing information. However, the post processing instructions are not wirelessly recorded on the storage device and the storage device is not transported on a spool holding the printed media. In addition, Kurahashi fails to disclose or suggest that the post processing instructions are wirelessly played back from the information device at the offline post processing system for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool.

Therefore, because the combination of Combining Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present claims, the combination Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi fails to render independent claim 1 and dependent claim 5 unpatentable.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the combination of Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi in view of Webster et al. (US 5,559,606, "Webster") under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1.

The addition of Webster to the combination of Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi fails to provide the features of claim 1 missing from the combination of Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi.

Webster is directed to a controller that dynamically configures an image processing apparatus based on the resources available. Webster has no disclosure related to wirelessly recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device without marking any media with the post processing instructions, transporting the electronic information device on a spool holding the printed media from an online printing/copying system where the printing operations occur to a separate offline post processing system where the post processing occurs, and wirelessly playing back the post processing instructions from the information device at the offline post processing system for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool.

Therefore, the cited combination fails to claims 3 and 4 unpatentable because the combination of Crowley, Allen, Kurahashi, and Webster fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi fails to disclose or suggest:

an online printing/copying operation having a controller for determining post processing instructions for printed media and for wirelessly recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device positioned on a spool of the printed media without marking the post processing instructions on any media; and

an offline post processing operation operable to wirelessly play back the post processing instructions from the transportable electronic information device for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool,

wherein the spool is configured for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together from the online printing/copying operation to the offline post processing operation,

as substantially recited by claims 9 and 14.

Murata fails to disclose or suggest the features of Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi missing from claim 9, in particular, wirelessly recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device positioned on a spool of the printed media without marking the post processing instructions on any media, wirelessly playing back the post processing instructions from the transportable electronic information device for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool, where the spool is configured for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together.

Thus, the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi fails to disclose or suggest all the features of independent claims 9 and 14 and dependent claims 13, 16, and 17 and fails to render these claims unpatentable.

5. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 12, and 15 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, Kurahashi, and Webster under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 and claim 15 depends from claim 14.

Webster fails to provide the features of claim 9 missing from the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, and Kurahashi. As mentioned above, Webster is directed to a controller that dynamically configures an image processing apparatus based on the resources available. Webster has no disclosure related to

an online printing/copying operation having a controller for determining post processing instructions for printed media and for wirelessly recording the post processing instructions on a transportable electronic information device positioned on a spool of the printed media without marking the post processing instructions on any media; and

an offline post processing operation operable to wirelessly play back the post processing instructions from the transportable electronic information device for controlling offline post processing of the printed media while the media is unwound from the spool,

wherein the spool is configured for conveying the printed media and the transportable electronic information device together from the online printing/copying operation to the offline post processing operation.

Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, Kurahashi, and Webster because the cited combination fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 9.

Claim 14 is directed to subject matter similar to claim 9, Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and is patentable over the combination of Murata, Crowley, Allen, Kurahashi, and Webster for the same reasons argued above.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,

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